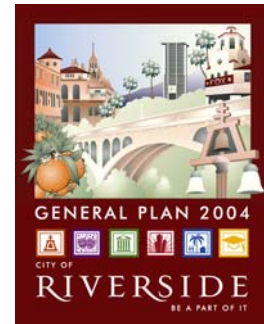


# **Riverside General Plan Program**

## **Meeting Notes Leadership Team Meeting Wednesday, May 7, 2003**



At the regularly scheduled May 7, 2003 Leadership Team meeting, City Planning staff and Cotton/Bridges/Associates presented the General Plan Program and asked for input from the participating City Department heads. In their introductory remarks, the Planning Director and the City Manager both emphasized that the General Plan is a citywide document of importance to all City departments, and they encouraged each department head to share ideas and suggested action program with Planning staff throughout the program.

Laura Stetson summarized the discussion from the April 22, 2003 “brainstorming” meeting and echoed the comment that the General Plan is not merely confined to land use and infrastructure issues, but relates to nearly all activities and actions of the City. She stated that the program will focus on implementing the visions set forth in recent city studies and that the General Plan will be an action-oriented product.

The presentation sparked a discussion related to greenbelt preservation policies and how those policies have been implemented since adoption of Proposition R and Measure C. The City Manager suggested that the General Plan could be used to develop guidelines/options based on overarching principles such as viewshed preservation, conservation of open space for habitat and agriculture, etc.

Planning staff stated that some portions of the measures are in conflict. For example, the measures simultaneously discourage grading but prohibit two-story homes. Clustered development as a means of land preservation would make sense, and should be included in more zones as warranted by good land use planning.

The Museum Director gave some history of the origins of the measures. He stated that Measure C was borne in part out of a belief that the City was trying to weaken Proposition R. The discussion turned toward quality of life/environment issues, with the thought that maintaining greenbelts and maintaining/improving circulation are both quality of life issues and could be addressed that way. The group concluded that the General Plan would not address the measures directly, but that the consultants would use the project to help formulate consistent implementation measures.

Other points/issues raised by the participants included:

- The circulation element needs to address transit issues.

- The circulation element needs to address retrofitting existing infrastructure to better accommodate different transit modes (bikes, pedestrians, etc.).
- Regarding housing, the City Manager stated that he had seen a prototype of a house that appears to be single family, but actually contains three dwelling units. He also stated that the team needs to think about socioeconomic stratification related to housing.
- Libraries are now more program-oriented than facilities oriented: the buildings themselves have been transcended, and library activities extend beyond the walls. Libraries and schools (such as UCR extension) now offer citizens a “continuum of self-directed lifelong learning opportunities.”
- One possible theme to explore is the linking/weaving together of the City, public schools, UCR, the other colleges, and the libraries into a common program. A representative from information services stated that there are ongoing efforts to link the library and schools electronically.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Laura Stetson distributed a questionnaire, encouraging the Department heads to make suggestions not only related to their own departments, but also on any other issues or areas that would be useful to the General Plan process.